

REMARKS

Claim 22 has been amended. Claim 23 has been deleted. Claims 22 and 24-32 are pending.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification, for example, on page 7, lines 17-29.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment After Final Rejection. The amendments to the claims raise no new issues that would require further consideration, no additional claims are presented, and no issues of new matter are raised as basis is provided in the specification for each new limitation. The Amendment places the application in better form for appeal. The Amendment was not earlier presented because it was believed that previously presented arguments and amendments were sufficient to overcome the grounds of rejection.

§ 103 Rejections

Claims 22-29 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Wallace (U.S. 4,889,765) or TYVEK Product Bulletin in view of Fryberg (WO 95/28285). The Patent Office submits, in part, that both Wallace and TYVEK Product Bulletin disclose that spunbonded polyolefin substrates are not inherently receptive to aqueous ink jet inks and that it is necessary to coat these substrates with an ink-receptive coating. The Patent Office further submits, in part, that Fryberg discloses a recording sheet comprising a support and an ink-receptive composition thereon, wherein the ink receptive coating comprises a multivalent metal salt (i.e., Group IIIb metal salt, purportedly including magnesium sulfate and aluminum sulfate) and a surfactant. Claim 23 has been cancelled rendering the above rejection moot to this claim.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above rejection and disagree with the Patent Office's characterization of the disclosure of Fryberg. Applicants submit that the Patent Office's definition of Group IIIb metals and Fryberg's definition of Group IIIb metals are not the same. Fryberg's definition of Group IIIb metals are the Group IIIb metals of the CAS version of the Periodic Table. Applicants suspect that the Patent Office's definition is from the IUPAC version. The CAS Group IIIb metals include Sc, Y, La and the lanthanide series. Fryberg refers to such metals on page 8, last paragraph; Table 1, page 22; Tables 2.1 and 2.2, page 23; Example 3, page 24; Example 4, page 26; Example 5, page 30; Example 6, page 31; and Example 7, page 33. Additionally, Fryberg discloses that nitrate salts of BA, Mg, Ca, Zn,

USSN: 09/314,034

Docket No.: 54565US002

and Al are used in comparative examples that provided poor waterfastness (page 22, Table 1 – page 23, first paragraph). Applicants submit that Fryberg discloses Group IIIb metals from the CAS version of the Periodic Table and that Fryberg teaches away from the use of certain other metals because they provided poor performance.

Thus, the combination of the disclosures of either Wallace or TYVEK Product Bulletin with the disclosure of Fryberg as suggested by the Patent Office does not result in Applicants' invention as now claimed. Additionally, Fryberg teaches away from the use of the multivalent metals BA, Mg, Ca, Zn, and Al because the use of such metals in the compositions of Fryberg provided poor and inferior results. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 22-29 and 32 be withdrawn.

Claims 30-31 were rejected as above and further in view of Funkunishi (U.S. 5,958,547). Funkunishi adds nothing substantive to the disclosures of Wallace, TYVEK Product Bulletin, of Fryberg to cure the defects discussed above. For this reason, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claims 30 and 31 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested. Allowance of claims 22 and 24-32, as amended, is solicited. Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number below if Examiner believes that such a call would expedite allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

22. (Amended) An ink receiving medium comprising:

a nonwoven macroporous substrate having a fluid management system and having a pigment management system comprising a water-soluble multivalent metal salt having a metal cation selected from the group consisting of Ca, Mg, Ti, Cr, Zr, Fe, Cu, Zn, Ta, Al, Ga, Sn, and combinations thereof in contact with surfaces of macropores of the substrate therein, wherein the nonwoven macroporous substrate comprises fibers selected from the group consisting of cotton, flax, hemp, ramie, burlap, wool, silk, rayon, acrylic, polyolefin, polystyrene and block copolymers thereof with butadiene, polyester, polyamide, polyarylsulfones, poly(vinyl alcohol), poly(ethylene vinyl acetate), polyacrylates, polycarbonates, cellulosic polymers, polyimides, polyurethanes, and combinations thereof.